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SECOND
INAUGURAL ADDRESS
OF
HIS EXCELLENCY
FREDERICK W. PITKIN,
TO THE TWO BRANCHES
OF THE
LEGISLATURE OF COLORADO,
JANUARY 11, 1881

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INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

Gentlemen of the Senate

and of the House of Representatives.

In entering upon the discharge of my official duties for a second term I desire first to return my sincere thanks to the people of the State for the generous confidence which they have reposed in me in again selecting me as their Chief Magistrate. I do not hope to be able to bring to the discharge of those duties a more earnest endeavor to serve the State than has controlled my actions during the past two years. But a more intimate acquaintance with the condition of our affairs, acquired during that time, together with added experience in official life, will, I trust, enable me to guard and protect the public interests with greater ability.

However great may be the anxieties and cares of our respective positions, we may feel assured that the good people of Colorado will not withdraw their confidence from any public servant so long as he is honest, faithful and fearless in the performance of his duties.

The responsibility which devolves upon us, who are chosen to make and execute the laws, cannot be measured by any ordinary standard.

In older communities, where the system of laws has been long established and where the conditions of society are well known and subject to but few changes from year

to year, the duties and responsibilities of similar positions might be small and the honor great. It is not possible, however, for us to indulge such hopes for ourselves. We represent a State growing rapidly and almost beyond precedent in population and wealth. People from all portions of the United States and from many foreign countries are pouring in upon us to share in our prosperity and to assist in shaping the destinies of the commonwealth. They are contributing to the marvelous growth of our cities, to the founding of new towns and mining camps, and to the development of our various industries.

THE MINING INTERESTS

For more than twenty years the mineral resources of Colorado have attracted more or less attention throughout the country. By slow degrees the product of our mines annually increased, until two years ago, we rejoiced in the fact that our shipments of bullion for the year 1878 had reached nine millions of dollars. We then began to hope that in the future, in the distant future, we should become the great mineral-producing State of the Union.

The report of Wells, Fargo & Co., which credits us with a production of about two millions less than the best authorities in the State estimate, show that our mineral production for 1880 exceeds that of California by over \$3,000,000, and of Nevada by more than \$6,000,000.

It seems like a dream that in two short years we have passed the two great States on the Pacific coast, and are to-day the foremost mineral State in the Union.

The days of prediction have gone by. We have realized more than we have hoped for in former years.

The work of development will now be carried on in all

portions of the State, and it is hoped that the increase will continue as rapid in the future as it has done in the past

EXCESSIVE CAPITALIZATION

There is no other industry in the country that could prosper if the same mistakes were made in its management that have been made in our mining enterprises. Mining is a legitimate business, when it is conducted on business principles. But it is too often the case that in mining enterprises all the rules are ignored which are regarded as essential in other business ventures. This is especially the case in regard to the amount of capital stock of many mining corporations. No manufacturer at the East would think of issuing a million dollars of stock to conduct a business requiring one hundred thousand dollars of capital. Yet in mining enterprises this disproportion too frequently exists, and, as a necessary consequence, the great majority of mining stocks sell at a very large discount from their par value. And when the Eastern public are buying depreciated stocks they too frequently purchase those which are the cheapest, and therefore get those which are the most worthless.

These practices create a prejudice against mining investments and are injurious to all of our citizens who conduct it on a legitimate basis. It is because the business of mining, when properly conducted, is so profitable that this industry has prospered notwithstanding the mistakes which are so commonly made. When it is conducted upon proper business principles, and under the direction of men of intelligence and good judgment, it should be in Colorado, the most profitable business in the world.

COAL AND IRON.

In estimating our mineral resources, the beds of coal

and iron, which are found in large bodies in different sections of the State, seem generally to be overlooked. The time is not far distant when these important interests will add greatly to the wealth of the State, and give employment to largely increased numbers of workmen. We have the materials here for great manufacturing establishments. There seems to be no reason why the locomotives, cars, steel rails, portable engines, and the various kinds of machinery used in the mines, should not soon be manufactured in the State.

There is no surer basis of prosperity for any community than manufacturing establishments which are adapted to the resources and demands of the country in which they are located.

By giving employment, at good wages, to skilled labor, they become the means of supporting, in comfort, large families of the best class of citizens.

Around such establishments healthy and prosperous communities are built up. They encourage the best class of emigration to any country.

The large works now in process of erection at Pueblo, will, I trust, be only a forerunner of numerous other manufacturing establishments of various kinds in different portions of the State, until Colorado shall become as well known for her manufactures as for her productions of gold and silver.

RAILWAY EXTENSIONS.

There is no more certain indication of the confidence which is felt in our great resources and in the prosperous future before us than the rapid extension of the railroads. During the past year one company has constructed three hundred miles within the State, being nearly a mile of com-

pleted road for every working day in the year. These roads will soon furnish remote regions with facilities for transportation which will enable them to compete with the older counties. When Gunnison, Summit and the San Juan counties are furnished the same railroad facilities which the eastern sections of the State enjoy, the value of mining properties in these sections will be increased many fold and their mineral productions will materially increase the annual bullion product of the State.

STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION.

The law provides that on the first Monday in August the State Board of Equalization shall meet to equalize the assessments of the various counties.

It also provides that on or before the first day of September the Auditor shall transmit to the Clerk of each county a statement of the changes, if any, which have been made in the assessments, and that on the first Monday in October of each year the Board of County Commissioners shall levy the requisite taxes for the year.

During the past two years the returns of the assessments of all the counties have not been received prior to the first Monday of October, and I understand that the returns from all the counties for the assessments of last year have not been received up to the present time. It has therefore been impossible for the State Board to make any equalization during the past two years.

In my judgment the equalization should not be made by the officers of the Executive Department of the State, but by the State Senate or a committee appointed by that body representing the different sections, who should have power to fix the assessed valuation of any county which failed to make returns at the amount which to them seemed

just. The change could only be made by a constitutional amendment.

EXEMPTION OF WAGES FROM ATTACHMENT.

Section 226 of the code provides that the earnings of a debtor for personal services for sixty days should be exempt from garnishment, provided such earnings are necessary for the use of a family provided wholly or partly by his labor.

This provision was repealed in 1879 by section eighteen of the act to amend the code.

The wages of laboring men are usually paid at the end of the month. I am informed that when they are garnisheed a large proportion, and sometimes the whole, are eaten up in costs. Sickness and misfortunes overtake all classes alike and bring pecuniary embarrassment.

Where the wages of a laboring man are necessary for the payment of rent and other expenses of a family depending upon him for support, I think the earnings for thirty or sixty days should be exempt from garnishment and attachment, and therefore recommend that section 226 of the code be restored.

REFORM SCHOOL.

I think the time has arrived when the State should establish a reform school for boys. To confine the young persons who are guilty of small offenses in the common jails, with hardened criminals, almost always results in their ruin. This class of boys have generally been reared in poverty and are frequently orphans, and the offenses they commit are as much owing to their misfortunes as to any inherent tendency toward vicious lives.

I think the State could, without any great expense, provide for the establishment of a reform school, in con-

nection with a farm, whereby these young persons could be rescued from destruction. It is cheaper for the State as well as more humane, to endeavor to educate them to become good citizens than to support them as confirmed criminals in the penitentiary.

THE CHINESE QUESTION.

A serious riot broke out in the city of Denver last fall, which was directed against the Chinese population of the city, and resulted in the loss of one life and in severe injuries to several other persons.

That such a disturbance should occur at the capital of the State, and continue for several hours before the civil authorities could restore order, may very properly call our attention to the question of Chinese immigration to this country, and its effects upon the interests of American citizens.

The number of Chinese residents here is not large enough at the present time to seriously affect the welfare of our population.

The Chinese in California, however, nearly equal in number the voters in that State. The number in Nevada is very large. Colorado is the next State that will be overrun by this peaceable Asiatic invasion, unless it is arrested by legal means. And as China contains one-third of the population of the world, a number equal to the entire population of the United States might be spared from that empire, and their departure would scarcely be noticed.

If the public interests are injuriously affected by their presence upon American soil, then it becomes our duty to take such action as is within our power to arrest the evil before it assumes greater proportions.

What the effect would be of any considerable number of this class of population coming to Colorado, is not a matter of conjecture. In the light of the experience of California and Nevada we may read our own history.

Those who come to our shores are commonly known as coolies, and they are socially, morally and intellectually the lowest subjects of that populous empire.

Reared in a civilization which, for four thousand years, has made but little progress, and which has regarded all other nations as barbarians, they come with fixed habits and customs entirely different from and antagonistic to our own.

The emigrants to this country from European nations have readily assimilated with our people. In one or two generations all traces of their ancestry are entirely obliterated and they become as distinctively American in custom, habit and mode of thought as though their ancestors had lived here for centuries. The Chinese, on the contrary, come here with a contempt for our customs and institutions. They have no idea of identifying themselves with the country, of contributing to its greatness and sharing in its glory.

They simply hope to obtain by a few years residence among us enough of our wealth to return to the Celestial empire and there enjoy their accumulated earnings.

They not only reject our beneficent influences of our civilization, but they bring with them all the corrupting influences in which they have been reared.

The home and family circle, which are recognized and cherished by our people and by all European emigrants, are unknown among the Chinese here. With a few rare exceptions, the Chinese women in this country are pros-

titutes. They are bought and sold for the purpose of prostitution as freely as slaves were bought and sold for the purposes of labor before the war of the rebellion. In every city where the Chinese gather in numbers these prostitutes are a conspicuous element. Their debauching influence is felt by every community in which they congregate. This is especially the case with the youthful portion of the community. The testimony of physicians of the highest standing before the investigation committee of the California Legislature, shows that the corrupting influence of these women was one of the most alarming features of the Chinese question. The testimony established the fact that a very large number of boys under the age of 15 years, belonging to respectable parents, had been enticed by them into their dens of shame and inflicted with diseases which would not be eradicated for generations.

Their opium dens are scarcely less baleful in their influence than their houses of prostitution. The body, soul, and all capacities for usefulness are destroyed when once the victim has become accustomed to the deadly drug.

However horrible these things may seem, it is a matter of common notoriety that these Chinese houses of prostitution and these opium dens are in existence to-day in Denver in considerable numbers. They go with the Chinese wherever they go, and all efforts of the civil authorities up to the present time have been insufficient to eradicate them. The difficulties that have arisen in this country in dealing with these questions by the local authorities seem to be insurmountable. The principal one is that we do not understand their language. None of the Chinese

are willing to assist the authorities in correcting these evils. They are bound together by all the ties of race, religion and common prejudice.

They maintain in this country their secret tribunals for the trial and punishment of offenders. They impose fines and other punishments, and even inflict the death penalty. They have no conception of the sanctity of an oath as administered in our courts of justice.

It was hoped, that when they first began to emigrate to America, that they would be the instrumentality by which Christianity might be successfully introduced into China. The experience of thirty years has demonstrated that all these hopes are fallacious. Christian ministers and teachers of all denominations have labored faithfully to convince them of the truth of the Christian religion.

Only about one in a thousand have pretended to assent to the religious teachings upon which our civilization is based.

Where, by the contact of these two civilizations in this country, one Chinaman is elevated to a higher moral and religious condition, scores of Americans are debauched and degraded by the immoral influences which the Chinese bring with them.

If the present ratio is maintained, America will much sooner be converted to heathenism, than China will be to Christianity, through the influence of the Chinese in the United States.

EFFECT OF CHINESE LAW.

The effect which Chinese labor has upon the condition of the laboring classes of this country is a subject which deserves the most serious consideration.

The differences and antagonisms between the two civilizations are here most strongly marked.

The Chinese who come here are mostly adults and have no families.

Through many centuries of deprivations they have been educated to live upon the cheapest quality of food that is capable of supporting life.

They need no buildings for display, and but few for comfort.

A house that would be suitable for an ordinary American laborer with his family, will furnish shelter for twenty or thirty Chinamen.

Our civilization has been constructed upon the basis of the home circle, the school house and the Church. The American laborer has been taught to love and cherish his wife, to educate his children, to supply them with all possible comforts and to fit them to fill any honorable position which they may be able by honesty and industry to reach. The position of the father in the social scale has imposed no limitation upon the position which his children might occupy. However poor an American laborer might be, he has always looked forward to a more elevated condition for his children.

The wages heretofore paid in this country have enabled the laboring classes to live in comfort and to contribute to some extent to the support of the school house and the church.

Here we see that the American and Chinese laborer meet upon an entirely different basis. If it costs an American laborer three dollars a day to support his family and educate his children, and he receives that sum for his wages, a Chinaman, having no family to support, and bear-

ing none of the burdens of society or social life, can afford to do the same work for one dollar per day and still save a large part of his wages.

The American laborer to compete with him must consent to a reduction of wages to that figure. The effect is immediately felt in his household. The food for himself and family is necessarily cheapened, their clothing is less respectable, the children must be taken from school and church, and the family is in every respect disgraced. Still the Chinese competitor can underbid the American laborer and accumulate money. The American laborer, who was, by the first reduction of wages, brought to the very verge of destitution, can no longer contend with his competitor, and must either seek a new field for his labor, or himself and family must sink below the level of the Chinese.

There can be no fair competition between American labor based upon the family relation, the home circle and the duties of citizenship on the one hand, and Chinese labor on the other hand, which ignores these relations and rests upon a system of prostitution.

This question is of the greatest importance in our own country, where most people labor and where the laboring people are the ruling class. A Republican form of government must rest upon both the intelligence and moral political honesty of the people.

Unless the mass of the people are both intelligent and honest our Government and institutions must soon be overthrown. And any system which is injurious to the laboring classes is necessarily hostile to the best interests of the nation.

America has been pre-eminently the land of the workingmen. From our earliest history we have asserted the

dignity of labor. We have recognized no distinction between the rich and the poor.

A majority of our chief magistrates and leading statesmen have risen from homes of poverty, and it is a matter of national importance that this system of well-paid labor, which has brought us prosperity in the past, should be protected against a hostile system which must destroy it whenever they come in competition

We can not blame the Chinamen for desiring to come here to improve their fortunes. But it becomes a question of self-preservation for our laboring-classes. The protection of American laborers against competition of this character is an imperative duty.

The remedy for this evil of Chinese emigration must be by legislation and not by violence. As long as the laws permit the Chinese to come here and stay here it is our duty to see that their personal safety is not endangered. We condemn, as barbarous, the attacks which have been made upon foreigners in China, where Americans and Europeans (including missionaries and sisters of charity) have been murdered in cold blood by mobs. As we claim to be an enlightened and Christian people, similar conduct on our part would be still more unjustifiable, and can not be allowed. The duty of public officials, who are charged with the preservation of the peace, to protect the Chinese from violence, cannot be too strongly or plainly stated.

We must therefore resort to peaceable remedies. In matters of this magnitude discussion always precedes action. The agitation of this question, begun single-handed by the people of California three or four years ago, has attracted national attention, and has resulted in action on the part of the national government. The terms of the

treaty recently negotiated between this country and China have not been fully given to the public. If it provides, as rumored, that the United States government may restrict or entirely prohibit Chinese immigration, then it is for the interest of the whole country that the treaty should be ratified, and that steps be taken immediately under its provisions to carry it into effect. If all further immigration of this character is prohibited, in a few years a large proportion of the Chinese now here will have returned to their native country, and the dangers which have been anticipated will be averted.

I think the support of the Legislature and of the people of the State should be given to the accomplishment of this object.

If, however, the new treaty does not embrace these provisions, the State Legislature should unite with the Legislatures of our sister States on the Pacific coast in demanding Congressional action which will terminate the old treaty without delay.

GEORGE B. ROBINSON.

We mourn the absence to-day of George B. Robinson, whom the people of Colorado had honored by electing him to the office of lieutenant-governor. He died on the 29th day of November last, from the effects of a wound accidentally received at his mines in Summit county. Up to the time of his sudden death his career had been both successful and honorable. Coming in here a stranger early in 1878, his commanding business abilities found immediate and adequate opportunity for their employment. Engaging first in mercantile pursuits, and afterwards in mining, he was prosperous in both to such an extent that the accumulations of less than three years can only be

measured by millions. During the recent political canvas his acquaintance became extended throughout a large portion of the State, and by his intelligence and manly bearing he secured the respect and esteem of the people and a widespread personal popularity.

To see one in the bloom of health, in the enjoyment of a princely fortune, and with the brightest prospects before him for an honorable public career, so suddenly cut down, should suggest to each one of us, "what shadows we are, and what shadows we pursue."

ARMED GUARDS AT MINES.

As it is well known that Mr. Robinson's death, although accidental, was the result of an armed guard having been stationed at his mine, it seems proper in this connection to refer to the question of arming men to defend mines.

The practice has been very common in different localities during the past two years, and in several instances conflicts have occurred between the armed men in possession of mines and armed men endeavoring to obtain possession. These instances have generally occurred when the mines were of great value, and the parties in possession, if undisturbed, would be able in a short time to take out large quantities of valuable ore. In such cases, either party who believed that he was rightfully entitled to possession has felt justified in resorting to violent measures to obtain or defend his property.

The crowded condition of the court dockets in some of the counties, which has prevented the trial of mining suits for many months, or perhaps years, has always seemed to furnish some apology for this practice. However necessary it may have seemed to the parties concerned, it has

encouraged lawlessness and a disrespect for those orderly methods by which rights should be protected, and has been injurious to the public. I think the evil is sufficiently apparent to call for legislative action.

It is possible that a law absolutely prohibiting the owner in possession of a mine from arming any of his employes for its defense would be unconstitutional. But, if that is the case, the law might, I think, limit the number of armed men to a very few.

The bill of rights of our State provides (Section 13, Article II of the Constitution) as follows :

“SECTION 13. That the right of no person to keep and bear arms in defence of his home, person and property
* * * * * shall be called in question.”

During the railroad troubles in May and June, 1879, I was informed that the two powerful corporations engaged in that controversy had each a considerable number of armed men to guard property to which they claimed ownership or a right of possession. I did not see why they had not, under the above section, a legal right to defend their property with armed men if either or both anticipated an attempt at forcible seizure. The question of ownership could only be determined by the courts. But if it is competent for the Legislature to limit the number of persons who can be collected together as an armed force for the defense of private property to a very few, the evil may be in a measure, corrected. In case the law should be changed, limiting the number of persons that may be armed for the defense of property, the punishment of persons guilty of mine jumping should be correspondingly increased.

If the present law providing for removing parties who

take forcible possession of mining property is not sufficiently summary and effective, this defect should be cured by legislation.

I would respectfully commend this subject to your consideration.

CONCLUSION.

I need not remind you of the short period allowed by the constitution for the duration of the session, and of the extreme difficulty of accomplishing the necessary legislation within that time. The evils of hasty and inconsiderate legislation during the closing hours of your labors are well understood, and they can only be avoided by constant and unremitting labor throughout the entire session.

I trust that by wise and just legislation, and by an honest and economical administration of the affairs of the State, that we may be able to contribute to the peace, happiness and prosperity of the people.

I also trust that the kind Providence which watches over us may spare our lives and give us wisdom to meet the responsibilities resting upon us.